Message from the author

- Time is money
- A friend in need is a friend indeed
- Strike when the iron is hot
- Youth only comes once
- Time waits for no man

(From my dad's high school album)

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小玉ユキ

Kodama Yuki

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作品紹介

★66年、九州。転入した高校で不良の千太郎と出会った薫。千太郎に振り回されながらジャズを知り、律子に恋をし、すべてが初体験の日々の中、3人の関係を変える出来事が次々と…！眩しくてほろ苦い、直球青春物語。

収録作品 「坂道のアポロン」②／「インターチェンジ」

●小玉ユキの単行本

坂道のアポロン ①〜②
羽衣ミシン
光の海
●小玉ユキ短編集
①マンゴーの涙
②Beautiful Sunset

Cover design／名久井直子

Character Introduction

Nishimi Kaoru

FIRST-YEAR.

TRANSFERRED FROM THE CITY OF YOKOSUKA, IS A PRODIGY AND CARRIES HIMSELF WITH PRIDE.

STAYS WITH HIS UNCLE. STARTED PLAYING THE PIANO SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.

Kawabuchi Sentarou

KAORU'S CLASSMATE.

A NOTORIOUS DELINQUENT WITH ENEMIES FROM UPPERCLASSMEN AND OTHER SCHOOLS, BUT HAS A LIVELY AND BRIGHT PERSONALITY.

PLAYS THE DRUMS.

Mukae Ritsuko

THE CLASS REP KAORU LIKES.

A SIMPLE AND CARING GIRL, SHE IS ALSO SENTAROU'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

GOES TO CHURCH WITH SENTAROU.

Mukae Tsutomu

RITSUKO'S DAD WORKS AT A RECORD SHOP. HIS HOBBY IS TO PRACTISE JAZZ IN THE STUDIO BELOW HIS SHOP.

THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL SENTAROU SAVED FROM HARASSMENT AT THE SHORE.

Junichi

A UNIVERSITY STUDENT, SENTAROU CALLS HIM JUN-NII. HIS HOME IS NEXT DOOR TO RITSUKO, BUT IS CURRENTLY GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO.

The story till now

★IN THE EARLY SUMMER OF 1966, KAORU TRANSFERRED INTO A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL. HAVING TO TRANSFER SEVERAL TIMES DUE TO HIS FATHER'S OCCUPATION, SCHOOL WAS NOTHING BUT A SUFFOCATING PLACE TO HIM. HOWEVER, AFTER HE MEETS SENTAROU, AND FALLS IN LOVE WITH RITSUKO, HIS HIGH SCHOOL LIFE WAS COMPLETELY CHANGED. SEEING SENTAROU PLAY THE DRUMS AT RITSUKO'S PLACE INSPIRED KAORU TO PLAY JAZZ TOO.

★AT THE SEA DURING THEIR SUMMER VACATION, KAORU STARTS TO QUESTION RITSUKO AND SENTAROU'S RELATIONSHIP, BUT AFTER SENTAROU SAVES A BEAUTIFUL GIRL FROM OTHER DELINQUENTS, THE SITUATION TAKES A TURN FOR THE UNEXPECTED!

SCENE6
シーン

HEY!

SEN-BOU!

坂道のアポロン②

はぁ
*SIGH

I'M NOT ...

ACTING STRANGE ...

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE RECENTLY ...

THE BEAT IS COMPLETELY OFF!

DID YOU CATCH HAY FEVER?

I'LL HAVE TO RETURN TO TOKYO SOON, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME.

PLEASE LOOK AFTER SEN-BOU, OKAY?

EH!?

NO WAY!

...KAORU-KUN,

pant

pant

pant

YOU ...

RICCHAN, LET'S LEAVE THIS IDIOT HERE AND GO ON AHEAD!

WE CAN'T DO THAT, KAORU-SAN!

YOU ...!

WALK ON YOUR OWN!!

STOP BEING CHILDISH!

WHY ARE THERE COMPULSORY CLASSES WHEN ITS SUMMER VACATION?

NEITHER DO I FEEL LIKE GOING FOR THE LESSONS ...

IF WE LEAVE SENTAROU ALONE, HE'S NEVER GOING TO TURN UP FOR SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS ABOUT WINNING ...

KAORU-SAN, YOU REALLY ARE FROM THE CITY!

...

WOW

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, THERE ISN'T A PREP SCHOOL IN THIS TOWN.

TO WIN THIS BATTLE WE NEED TO TAKE THE EXTRA LESSONS SERIOUSLY!

坂道のアポロン②

ÄH!
I ALMOST FORGOT!
SENSEI ASSIGNED A TASK TO ALL THE CLASS REPRESEN-TATIVES...
EH!?
SORRY, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GO ON FIRST!
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF SENTAROU!
OH!
UGH ...
YOU'RE HEAVY...
i can't move
STONE
ARE YOU DOING THIS ON PURPOSE, YOU BASTARD...

OH..!

THE GIRL AT THE BEACH!

I DIDN'T KNOW WE WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL!

WHAT A COINCIDENCE, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME!

YOU GUYS,

COULD YOU BE ...?

.....

HEY...

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAVED HER?

SAY SOME-THING...

ふつ

POKE

WE'LL BE GOING ON AHEAD!

YURIKA!

AH.

HANG ON!

IF YOU SEE ME AROUND, DO SAY HI!

SORRY, I'LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

he's my knight!

eh, what?

you know that scruffy guy?

Shall I try to marry into money?

I HEARD YAMAOKA-KUN IS IN HAWAII NOW.

WOW, HE'S RICH!

Otcho!

I WANT TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS TOO!

no one's stopping you

IT'S AWFULLY QUIET TODAY...

.....

"YURIKA" ...

THAT'S A PRETTY NAME.

COULD THIS BE ...?

HM?

I WONDER WHICH YEAR SHE'S IN...
SHE SEEMS PRETTY GROWN-UP, SO MAYBE SHE'S AN UPPER-CLASSMAN.
MAYBE SHE ISN'T LOCAL.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE AN ACCENT ...
SHUT UP.
.....
IT'S SO OBVIOUS.
bringing a rice ball with you to the toilet, eh
HEY, NISHIMI-KUN...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?
TO THE TOILET!
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT HER SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WITH LONG HAIR NAMED YURIKA.
ACTUALLY ... NEAR WHERE I STAY,

WHAT!?

heh...

REALLY, MARUOKA KUN!?

I'm nishimi-kun!?

がばっ

ガラガラ

I THOUGHT THE THIRD YEARS WERE COMING TO PICK A FIGHT AGAIN...

SECOND YEAR, CLASS 6, NUMBER 38

...WHAT IS IT, BON?

SHE TRANSFERRED HERE FROM TOKYO SINCE HER SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.

SHE LIVES WITH HER PARENTS AND GRAND-MOTHER.

HER LAST NAME IS FUKAHORI AND HER NAME IS YURIKA.

HER INTERESTS ARE OIL PAINTING AND FENCING, AND SHE'S AN AQUARIUS, BLOOD TYPE B.

SHE HAS TWO BROTHERS, BOTH IN UNIVERSITY AND LIVING APART.

FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

THATS ALL.

.....

WHAT,

WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT!

YOUR RICE BALL HAS DRIED OUT ...

BECAUSE YOU'VE HAVENT EATEN IT AT ALL.

!!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME.

YOUR CHEST TIGHTENS,

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT HER,

AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE AN APPETITE, RIGHT?

munch

YOU'RE COMPLETELY LOVESICK.

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN LOVE BEFORE ...?

EH? DON'T TELL ME...

NOPE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... ARE YOU KIDDING?

MY FIRST LOVE WAS IN KINDER-GARTEN!

...LOVE?

THIS IS LOVE...?

who is snot-nosed taichi?

BON...

YOU'RE AMAZING!

YOU ARE PRETTY AMAZING TOO.

K..KINDER GARTEN!?

AT THE SAME AGE AS SNOT-NOSED TAICHI!?

AND NOT HAVING EVER FALLEN IN LOVE?

BY HIS SIDE,

HAVING SUCH A CUTE GIRL

IF HE STARTS LIKING THAT YURIKA...

HANG ON...

坂道のアポロン②

BETWEEN RICCHAN AND ME ANYMORE.

THEN HE WON'T GET IN THE WAY.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HER...?

.....

WE SHOULD ...

FORMULATE A PLAN FIRST.

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY PROGRESS.

BUT IF YOU JUST STAND THERE AND BLUSH LIKE THIS MORNING,

.....

...YE,

YEAH ...

WE'LL TAKE A BREAK FROM JAZZ PRACTICE AFTER SCHOOL,

AND DISCUSS THIS INSTEAD.

OKAY.

BUT WHY NOT GO TO THE STUDIO?

I'M ALL RIGHT WITH THAT.

WE CAN'T!

OH,

AT MY PLACE?

WON'T YOU FEEL MORE AT EASE AT HOME?

BESIDES, ITS NEAR THE SHOP, ISNT IT?

WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHEN SHE MIGHT OVERHEAR US.

THAT RECORD SHOP IS RICCHAN'S HOUSE.

HEY, MOM!

I'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE HIM

TO FOLLOW MY PLAN...

THEY AREN'T JUST CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, THEY PRACTICALLY GREW UP IN THE SAME HOUSE!

4th

RECORD SH

YOU COULD SAY OUR HOUSES ARE CONNECTED LIKE A TENEMENT.

well

IT'S NOT EXACTLY 'NEAR' ...

WHAT ...?!

connected?

ただいまっ

WELCOME BACK, NII-CHAN!

YOU'RE EARLY TODAY! TAKING A BREAK FROM DRUMMING?

はぁーん

NII-CHAN!

OH!

COME IN, BON!

mom. nii-chan is back!

I'M HAVING A MEETING!

I'M NOT DRUM-MING TODAY.

MEET-ING?

PLAY WITH US, NII-CHAN!

SHE WAS AT THE WELL A MOMENT AGO.

AH, HANG ON, WHERE'S MOM?

CHIME

コチコチ

コチ

hahaha!

hey!

MOM, THIS IS BON.

hahaha!

COME OVER HERE, BON!

THERE'S WATERMELON!

EH?

A BOWL?

for me?

and why are you calling me Bon?

AH,

ME TOO...

BON!!

SENTAROU HAS BEEN IN YOUR CARE.

OH, HOW DO YOU DO!

どっさり

SENTAROU REALLY LIKES WATERMELON.

WATER-MELON IS AN EXCEPTION

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN APPETITE...

doesn't get a better than this

gulp

しゃく

しゃく

This is all for me!

EAT UP, BON!

ÖH.

HMM.

BUT I THOUGHT HE MIGHT LIKE SOME WATERMELON, SO I CHILLED SOME.

RECENTLY HE SAYS HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE...

YES, TAICHI?

NII-CHAN, NII-CHAN!

THERE'S A WEIRD BUG.

HE'S BLUSHING.

HEH.

hmm, we could try.

If we bury the watermelon seed, will it grow?

where's the bug?

so thats him

SNOT NOSED TAICHI ...

hahahal

kya!!

oh it flew!

WHY IS IT THAT ...

A BRIGHT LIGHT ENCOMPASSING HIM...

aw. don't cry!

ew. your hands are sticky!

AROUND HIM, THERE IS ALWAYS...

WERE SO BRIGHT, I COULDN'T LOOK.

THE TWO OF THEM...

EVEN AT THE SEA,

YOU CALL THAT TOO MUCH?

I COULD HAVE EATEN MUCH MORE!

WHAT'S WRONG, DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?

NO, I JUST ATE TOO MUCH WATER-MELON...

way too much

.....

YOUR ROOM IS PRETTY SIMPLE, ISNT IT?

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT LOVESICK-NESS FROM JUST NOW?

YOU'RE SO CARE-FREE!

AH...

...SO, WHAT WAS THIS MEETING ABOUT?

let me switch on the fan

REALLY?

I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT AFTER I SAW THE FACES OF THEM KIDS DOWNSTAIRS.

...ALSO,

WHEN WE WERE ON THE ROOFTOP,

I REALIZED THAT THERE'S SOMEONE SO CLOSE BY WHO COULD UNDERSTAND ME.

SO I FELT MORE AT EASE.

HEH.

SORRY FOR BEING SO OBVIOUS.

TO THINK I TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS FEELINGS ...

JUST TO IMPROVE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH RICCHAN...

THAT'S

.....

YOU WERE JUST TOO OBVIOUS.

THAT YOU FELT AT EASE...

PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT

A GROUP DATE?

カチ
カチ
SO WE'LL HAVE EXACTLY TWO GUYS AND TWO GIRLS, AND IF YOU RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE I CAN HELP YOU OUT.
WE'LL ASK HER IF SHE WOULD WANT TO MEET UP WITH THE REST OF US.
YEAH.
YOU'VE ONLY JUST GOT TO KNOW HER.
SO IF YOU WENT OUT ALONE WITH HER, SHE MIGHT FEEL UNCOMFORT-ABLE.

NATURALLY, YOU WILL HAVE TO INVITE MISS YURIKA.
HMM, I SEE ...
THERE'S NO POINT TO THIS IF YOU DON'T.
I CAN'T!
EH!?
*KNOCK
*KNOCK
I'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT TO DO ...
I CAN'T!
LIKE I SAID, IT'LL BE POINTLESS
BON, PLEASE,
NO WAY, IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

SARAH?

MY GIRLFRIEND!

HUH?

WHAT IS THAT SOUND?

*KNOCK

*KNOCK

SARAH?

peek

YOU'RE CHEERFUL TODAY!

WHAT?!

IS SHE OUTSIDE?!

sarah?!

WHAT'S WRONG, SARAH?

SARAH SEEMS PRETTY AGITATED ...

what's wrong?

a pigeon

.....

HER FULL NAME IS SARAH VAUGHAN!

ISN'T SHE CUTE?

A PIGEON.

.....

MAYBE SHE'S JEALOUS.

YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOME OTHER GIRL.

I SHOULDN'T BE ENJOYING MYSELF.

WHAT AM I DOING?

EH...

JUST TAKE IT, BON!

IT'S FINE, HERE, TAKE IT!

TAKE THIS UMBRELLA WITH YOU.

THE SKY SEEMS OVERCAST, IT MIGHT RAIN.

AH, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

...Oh

AH, NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

THANKS FOR HAVING ME.

I borrowed it.

A GENTLE MOTHER, KIND TO BOTH HER SON AND ME,

AND A CHORUS OF 'WELCOME HOME!' FROM HIS SIBLINGS.

*GRIP

NO ONE CARES ABOUT ME.

THERE IS NO SUCH WARMTH.

WHERE I AM TO RETURN,

*SLAM

!! ……

WILL YOU BE HERE FOR THE WEEK?

WERE YOU ABLE TO LEAVE EARLY?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE COMING BACK NEXT WEEK …?

DAD!?

KAORU.

DIDN'T THEY TELL YOU I WAS COMING BACK TODAY?

WELL, IT WAS QUITE RUSHED, SO THERE'S NO HELPING IT ...

THERE WERE SOME CHANGES IN MY SCHEDULE, SO I CAN'T RETURN AS PLANNED NEXT WEEK.

I'M JUST HERE TO GET MY BELONGINGS.

I'M SORRY.

AT LEAST I GET TO SEE YOU BEFORE I LEAVE.

BUT I'M GLAD.

GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE DOING WELL.

I'LL BE BACK AGAIN, SOON!

YOU'RE MORE SUNBURNT THAN USUAL!

GOT TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH MY DAD.

I NEVER...

I HAVE TO SEND HIM OFF WITH A SMILE.

I MUSN'T LOOK SAD.

BUT ...

I WISHED I HAD TOLD HIM TO WAIT, JUST FOR TODAY.

THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL YOU.

I HAVE A GIRL I LIKE, AND I'M PLAYING JAZZ.

THERE WAS A LIVELY GUY WHO TOOK AWAY ALL THAT...

DAD, I MANAGED TO GET OVER MY NAUSEA IN SCHOOL.

MOM, WHO I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT...

AND I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT

SENTAROU?

FELT LIKE COMING TO SEE THE VIRGIN MARY.

NO, I JUST ...

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HARDLY COME HERE ALONE.

SHE SEEMS TO RESEMBLE SOMEONE I KNOW...

SEN-TAROU,

HM...?

I HADN'T NOTICED, BEFORE.

THIS STATUE OF THE VIRGIN MARY IS BEAUTIFUL.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YOUR FAMILY?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.

.....

I JUST FELT LIKE SKIPPING THOSE EXTRA CLASSES.

ふわぁあ

ACTUALLY, ... NOPE

now..? it's already afternoon!

YEAH, YEAH, I'LL BE GOING NOW.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO SKIP CLASSES!!

you have school!

... YOU!

SCÉNE7（シーン）

AH...

DASH

ah?

...

BON ...

I CAN'T DO THIS!

IDIOT!

DON'T TURN BACK!

he's back

will he be alright?

JUST READ IT!

OH, YEAH.

LOOK AT THE NOTE I GAVE YOU!

CALM DOWN!

D, DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP ...

"DEEPEN"

DE... TAKING THIS CHANCE, WE WOULD LIKE TO...

are you free on the next break?

i'm sorry for stopping you so suddenly

nehe

OI!

AND HE'S READING WITHOUT EMOTION ...

THEY CAN SEE THE NOTE!

THAT IDIOT...!

.....

i feel embarrassed for him.

YOU'RE MEETING AT THE RENDEZVOUS CRAG AREN'T YOU?

SHALL I BRING SOME LUNCH-BOXES ALONG?

EH?

SHE SAID YES!

SHE'S COMING ALONG!!

BON!

BON!!

STOP CALLING FOR ME.

did you hear that Bon!

she she's cooking!

calm down.

BY THE WAY.

make...!

ど、ら

I'LL MAKE SOMETHING THEN.

AH, YES, SOMETHING LIGHT LIKE RICE BALLS WOULD DO.

if its not too much trouble

!

WHICH ONE OF YOU...

INVITED ME?

I'M ASKING JUST TO BE SURE.

EH?

THAT WOULD BE H-

IT'S HIM!

HE SAID HE ABSOLUTELY HAD TO INVITE YOU!

WHAT?

OPPS.

.....

yeah, they are interesting

A date? did you agree?

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

I UNDERSTAND.

.....

REALLY ...

IT WAS YOUR CHANCE,

AND YOU WASTED IT!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

...SIGH

CAN YOU REWIND TIME, BON...?

I CAN'T!

WELL, I DON'T QUITE UNDER-STAND IT MYSELF ...

I DON'T KNOW WHY I SAID THAT ...

IT'S AS IF MY MIND AND BODY...

AREN'T CO-OPERATING...

I NEVER HAD TO FEEL CONSTRAINED LIKE THIS.

I WONDER WHY...

EVEN WHEN I FOUGHT, OR PLAYED THE DRUMS,

WHEN I SEE HER.

MY LIMBS AND MOUTH DON'T MOVE AS I WANT THEM TO...

...YEAH.

THAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE IN LOVE.

though your case is a little different.

WHEN YOU ARE IN LOVE, NOTHING SEEMS TO GO YOUR WAY.

GOOD LUCK, I'LL DO MY BEST TO SUPPORT YOU.

U...

WELL, YOU JUST HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR THIS MISTAKE NEXT TIME.

坂道のアポロン②

I HAVE TO...
DO MY BEST, TOO.

I HAVE OBJECTIVES OF MY OWN.
FOR TODAY'S PLAN,

RICCHAN ...
YOU'RE PRETTIER THAN USUAL TODAY!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...

AH!
KAORU-SAN IS HERE!

THEY WERE ANNOYING ME, SO I COULDN'T HELP IT...

YOU IDIOT! OF ALL DAYS...!

THINK ABOUT THE KIND OF IMPRESSION YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE ...

HE GOT INTO A FIGHT YESTERDAY, AFTER SCHOOL.

WHAT ARE THOSE WOUNDS ON YOUR FACE?

•POUT

IT'S NORMAL FOR SENTAROU TO GET INTO FIGHTS.

WHY ARE YOU GETTING ANGRY?

?

WHATS WRONG, KAORU-SAN?

I'M SORRY I'M LATE!

I FORGOT TO TELL RICCHAN!

CRAP!

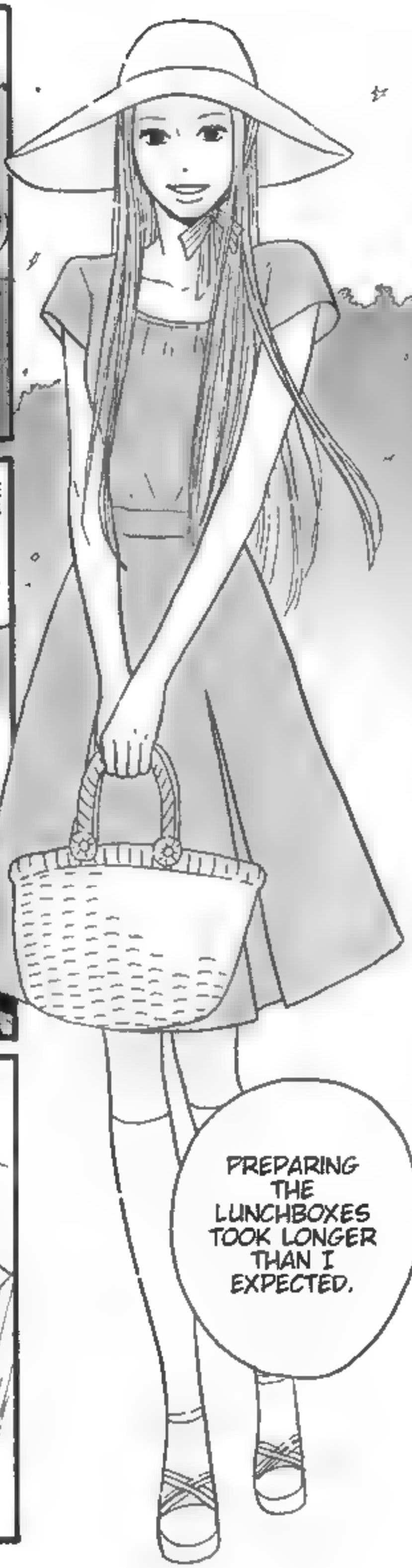
AH, WAIT!

WE HAVE ONE MORE PERSON ...

LET'S GO!

WE NEED TO TAKE A BUS FROM THAT STOP TO GO TO RENDEZVOUS CRAG.

.....
UH ...
RICCHAN, THIS IS ...



SHE'S COMING ALONG TODAY...
YOU RE-MEMBER?
YEAH!
AH, YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH DELINQUENTS AT THE BEACH!
!!

keep it together!
hey!

THE GUY WITH THE GLASSES INVITED ME.

PREPARING THE LUNCHBOXES TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED.

OH, SO IT WAS KAORU-SAN ...

IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

IT'S FINE!

YES.

KAORU-SAN DID?

EH?

IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO INTRUDE?

REALLY?

I'M RELIEVED.

THE MORE, THE MERRIER!

WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU.

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

EH?

did you say something?

WITH THAT SERIOUS EXPRES-SION...

SHE'S PROBABLY POPULAR AMONG THE BOYS...

I GUESS KAORU-SAN LIKES PRETTY FACES.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL ...

I WON'T GET BORED OBSERVING THEM.

AREN'T THOSE TWO INTER-ESTING?

I WONDER WHAT THEY ARE DISCUSSING.

I PUT A "STRING" ON IT!

AH, THIS!

ISN'T IT CUTE? IT RESEMBLES A FARMER'S HAT.

I JUST THOUGHT THAT YOUR HAT IS REALLY STYLISH.

AH, SORRY ...

...YES?

IF I WORE THAT, I'D JUST LOOK FUNNY...

SENTAROU WOULD LAUGH...

going to dig potatoes?

ha! potato lady!

YES ...!

AH, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A FARMER, NOT AT ALL!

PARDON ME...

EH...

REALLY? I DON'T THINK SO.

YEAH ...

I'm not a potato lady.-

ふわ

cute!

OKAY!

THERE YOU GO!

IF WE DO THIS, IT EMPHASISES YOUR LOVELY CURLY HAIR.

LIKE THOSE GIRLS IN FOREIGN MOVIES.

glance

IT REALLY SUITS YOU!

HOW IS IT?

YURIKA-SAN DID IT FOR ME ON THE BUS!

RIGHT ♡ ?

RICCHAN, WHEN DID YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIRSTYLE?

I REALLY LIKE RECORDS! CAN I GO OVER TO VISIT?

RITSUKO-CHAN'S HOUSE IS A RECORD SHOP, ISN'T IT?

AH, THATS RIGHT!

..AH!

YURIKA-SAN, DO YOU LIKE JAZZ?

THESE TWO PLAY JAZZ TOGETHER!

THEY COME OVER EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE!

...EH?

SAY SOME-THING!

annoyed

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

YOU TWO...

PLAY JAZZ?

WE HAVE A BASEMENT STUDIO IN OUR SHOP,

KAORU-SAN PLAYS THE PIANO, AND SENTAROU IS ON DRUMS...

YOU PLAY THE DRUMS!?

REALLY ...

YOU CAN PLAY JAZZ DRUMS!?

I KNOW PEOPLE WHO LISTEN TO JAZZ...

BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SOMEONE WHO PLAYS IT!

坂道のアポロン②

AH!

I LOVE THE JAZZ MESSENGERS TOO!

I REALLY LIKE HIM.

ART ...

ART BLAKEY ...

THAT'S AMAZING ...! WHO'S YOUR FAVOURITE DRUMMER?

...YE,

YEAH.

I LIKE THE KIND OF JAZZ WHICH YOU CAN FEEL WITH YOUR BODY.

JUST LIKE ART BLAKEY'S DRUMMING

BUT WHEN THEY LISTEN TO JAZZ, THEY FREEZE UP AND FROWN.

MY BROTHERS LIKE JAZZ, SO I LISTEN TO IT SOME-TIMES.

Coltrane is the best

hey, this record!!

shh! be quiet

I WANT TO HEAR YOU PLAY THE DRUMS!

EH ...

YES, THAT'S IT!

THAT'S EXACTLY IT!

YES!

WOW ...

THIS IS...

He's blushing down to the neck

JAPAN'S ART BLAKEY-SAN!

LET ME HEAR IT!

I'M STILL AN AMATEUR.

I, I CANT.

REALLY! BUT MUSIC CAN ONLY BE IMPROVED WHEN YOU HAVE AN AUDIENCE!

NOTE: DON'T BREAK BRANCHES.

THAT LOOKS BAD...

there's blood

I THINK I GOT SCRATCHED BY A BRANCH.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT !?

OW ...

AH!

QUITE UNEXPECTED.

ah ...

a plaster-

tch

tch

SORRY, YOU HAD TO TEAR YOUR HANDKER-CHIEF.

THANK YOU ...

D, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

its just a handkerchief

THAT SHOULD MAKE THE BLOOD STOP.

THERE YOU GO ...

CAN YOU STAND ...?

AH,

that made you look really cool!

HEH ...

but i'm used to getting injured

not really

you're gentle

WHAT DO YOU KNOW,

HE'S DOING PRETTY WELL!

EH?

BUT THIS CRAG GOES REALLY HIGH UP...

WON'T IT BE TOUGH ON A GIRL?

I HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM A FRIEND,

THAT IF YOU CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THIS CRAG AS A COUPLE, YOU'LL STAY TOGETHER FOREVER!

urk...

Go on, it's your cue!

YOU...

WHO WANTS TO COME WITH ME?

I'LL BE FINE! IT'S NOT REALLY THAT HIGH.

AH, THAT'S NOT TRUE!

Bon, want to climb with me?

Why should I?

YOU CAN'T!

OH, IT'S OUT OF BOUNDS ?

THAT'S A PITY, I WANTED TO SEE THE SCENERY FROM THE TOP.

立入禁止

IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS, SO YOU SHOULDN'T CLIMB IT ...

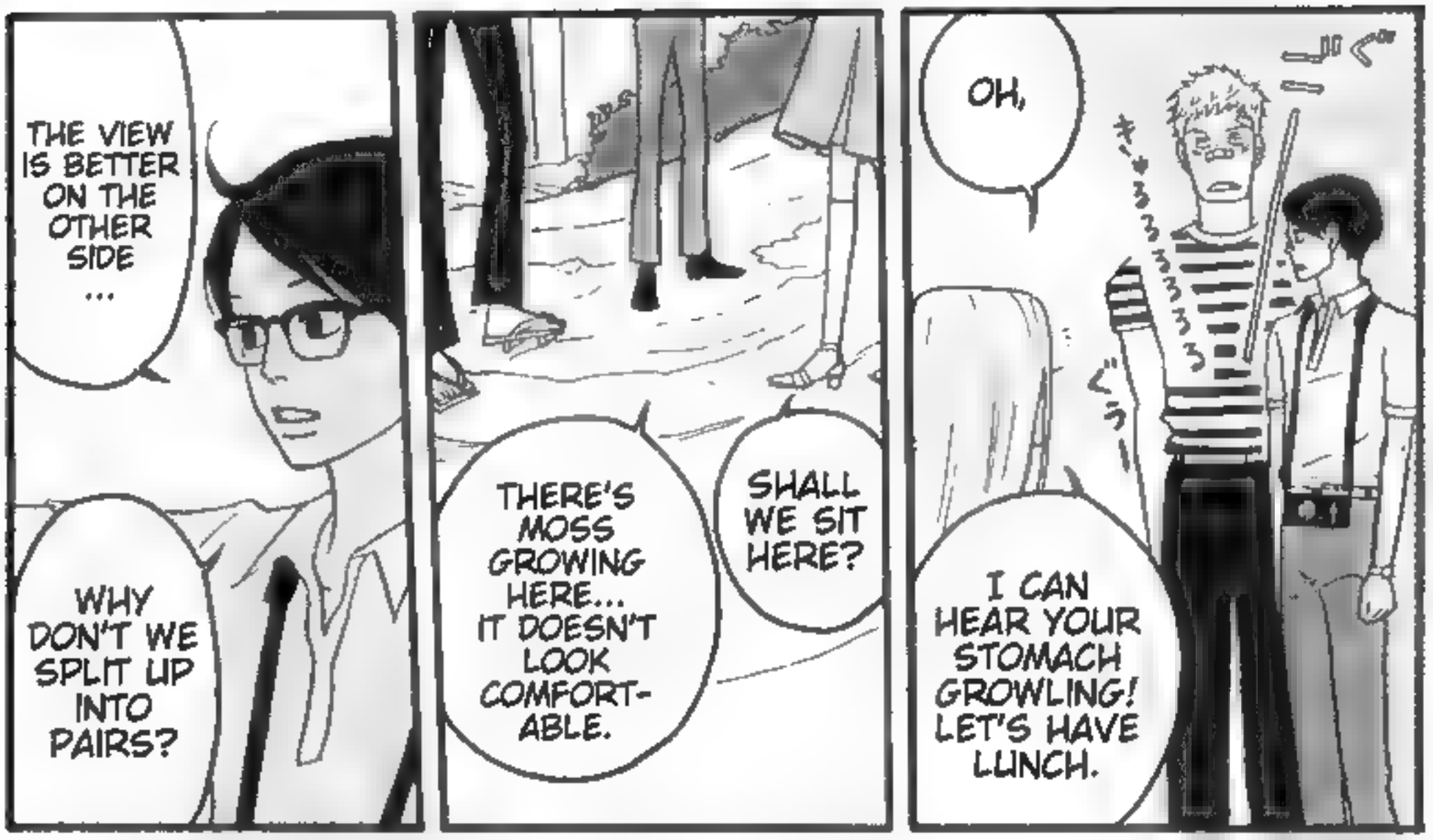
LOOK, IT SAYS NO TRES-PASSING!

...AH

NO, I MEAN ...

RICCHAN ...?

坂道のアポロン②


THE VIEW IS BETTER ON THE OTHER SIDE ...
WHY DON'T WE SPLIT UP INTO PAIRS?
THERE'S MOSS GROWING HERE... IT DOESN'T LOOK COMFORT-ABLE.
SHALL WE SIT HERE?
OH,
I CAN HEAR YOUR STOMACH GROWLING! LET'S HAVE LUNCH.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, RICCHAN? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
AH, IT'S NOTHING. LET'S EAT, KAORU-SAN.
THE BREEZE IS NICE HERE, ISN'T IT?
I'M GLAD I CAME UP WITH SUCH A GREAT IDEA!
We are together!
Yes!
YEAH ...

*choke

you shouldn't eat so fast!

ahahaha!

THOSE TWO SEEM TO GET ALONG WELL!

HAHA!

EH...? RICCHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'M GOING TO PICK SOME FLOWERS!

KAORU-SAN, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.

THESE RICE BALLS LOOK DELICIOUS, WHICH SHOULD I TRY FIRST?

t= t= t= t=

ﾊﾑﾊﾑ

the rest are normal-sized

SHE WAS HOLDING THIS CAREFULLY ALL THIS WHILE.

RIC-CHAN...

THIS RICE BALL IS HUGE.

MY, MY, KUN

FLOWERS ...?

MAYBE SHE'S GOING TO THE WASHROOM.

I'm not used to sandwiches...

nehe

TA.

TA.

TA.

TA.

RICC-
...

AN IDIOT

AM

EVEN THOUGH I HAD NOTICED THIS BEFORE...

I'VE ONLY BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR MYSELF,

I'VE BEEN IGNORING HOW RICCHAN FEELS.

STABBED AT MY CHEST LIKE A NEEDLE.

SOFT, STIFLED SOBBING ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DID YOU WANT TO PICK FLOWERS TOO?

KAORU-SAN ?

I HAD TO GO TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE BEHIND HERE TO USE THEIRS.

THERE WASN'T A WASHROOM NEARBY ...

I'LL GO BACK FIRST!

IF WE BOTH DISAPPEARED, WOULDN'T THEY FIND IT SUSPICIOUS?

EHEHE.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

I'VE HURT RICCHAN.

RICCHAN.

RICCHAN,

IN THIS CRUEL WAY,

I MADE THE GIRL I LIKE CRY.

LONELY SILHOUETTE.

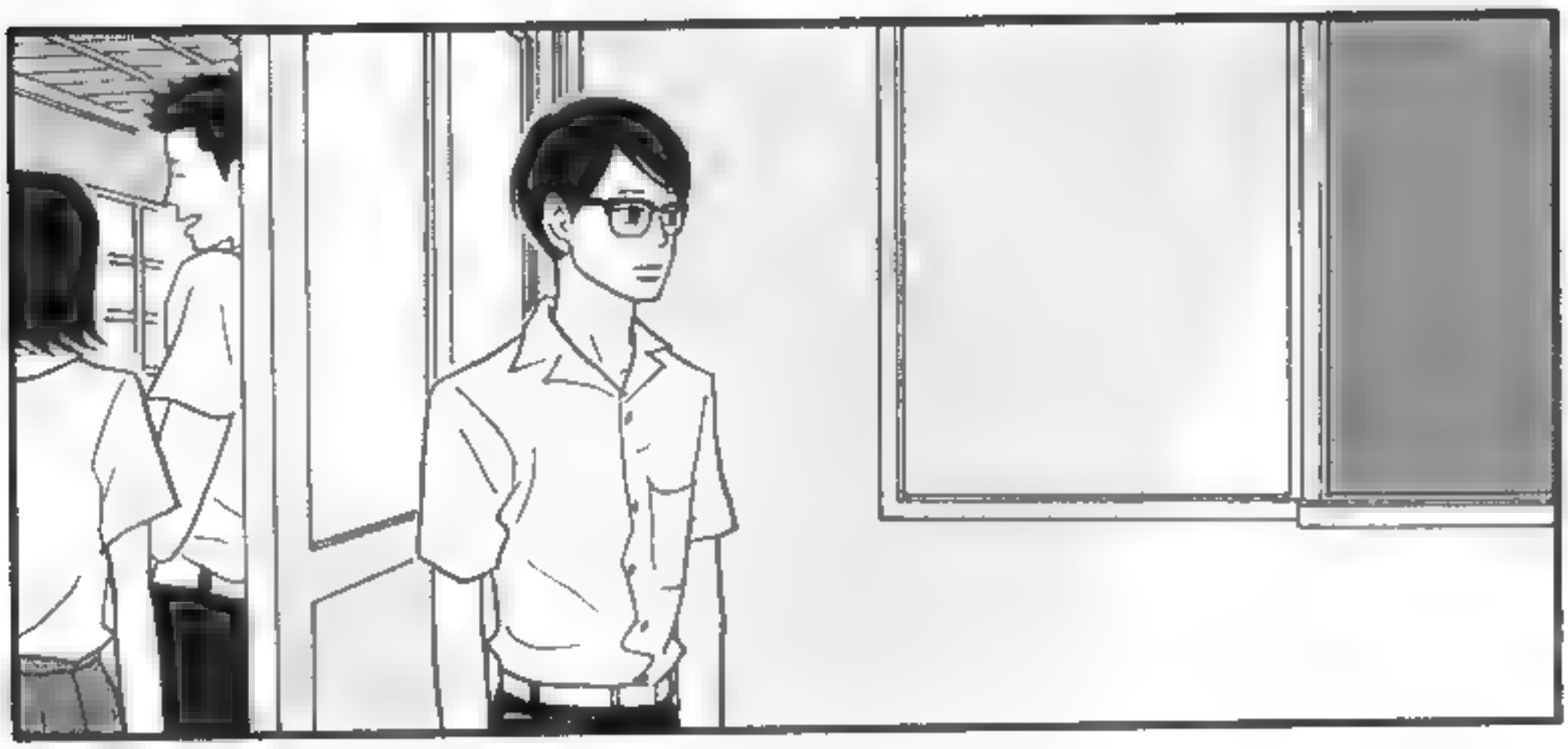
COMFORT THAT

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO

BACK TO WHAT IT WAS BEFORE.

AND I CAN'T PUT RICCHAN'S HEART.

I CAN'T TURN BACK TIME.



...
AH
G, GOOD MORN-ING.
GOOD MORNING, KAORU-SAN.
AH,
YESTERDAY WAS FUN!
...B,
BON!!

THIS HAND-KERCHIEF...

C, COME HERE FOR A MOMENT.

I SAW YURIKA-SAN AT THE LOCKERS.

RIGHT JUST NOW,

TH, THERE'S THIS...

hm?

FOR YESTER-DAY'S...

AND SHE GAVE ME THIS AS AN APOLOGY...

*SNAP

THOUGH IT MIGHT BE MY IMAGI-NATION...

NICE SMELL COMING FROM IT...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

WHÄT?

I COULDN'T STOP,

MY EMOTIONS FROM POURING OUT,

EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T HIS FAULT...

EVEN THOUGH I UNDERSTOOD THAT...

ALL TOO WELL.

SCENE 8

MY BODY...

MOVED ON ITS OWN.

KAORU-SAN?

...

RICCHAN,

ガバ

ガバ

YOU MUST NOT PICK UP THIS HANDKERCHIEF.

I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU DO THAT.

はぁ
はぁ

ガチ・
ガチャッ

DAMN
...

WHAT AM I TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

RUNNING ALL THE WAY UP HERE,

ガチャ

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, DO IT NOW.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

NOT REALLY ...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

I WAS IN THE WRONG.

IF IT'S THE HANDKER-CHIEF, I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU.

SO WHAT WAS WITH YOU JUST NOW?

WHAT!?

SHUT UP!

I TOLD YOU TO TELL ME...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?

GO SNIFF IT ALL YOU WANT, I DON'T CARE!

YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THIS HANDKER-CHIEF, RIGHT!?

PLEASE, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

HEY.

ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT?

STOP IT!!

SENTAROU!

AREN'T YOU FRIENDS!?

LET GO OF KAORU-SAN!!

.....

HMPH.

DON'T BE ROUGH WITH HIM! APOLOGIZE TO KAORU-SAN!

HÄH!

THIS IS STUPID ...

坂道のアポロン②

WÄÄIT!

SENTAROU!

I DON'T KNOW A GUY LIKE HIM.

"

"

THIS...

YOU MUSN'T FORGET THIS.

ISN'T IT AN IMPORTANT HANDKERCHIEF?

RICCHAN.

.....

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? ARE YOU HURT?

....KAORU-SAN?

HAS GOT TO HURT, MORE THAN ANYTHING.

YOUR HEART,

ITS A MIRACLE THAT,

...

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETURNING UNSCATHED!

good for you!

NISHIMI-KUN!

NISHIMI-KUN, YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU STOOD UP TO HIM.

NO ONE ELSE COULD DO THAT!

I TOOK IT OUT ON HIM, SO...

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STRANGE IF HE HAD PUNCHED ME.

IT SEEMS THAT HE LEFT EARLY.

I GOT AWAY UNHURT.

WHEN HE'S ANGRY,

HE GETS REALLY SCARY.

I MADE HIM REALLY MAD.

I WAS SCARED.

BEFORE I AM SATISFIED.

HOW MUCH I HAVE TO DESTROY,

I WONDER,

坂道のアポロン②

...EH?
ARE YOU COMING TO PRACTICE TODAY?
たたた
KAORU-SAN!
IS PROBABLY DRUMMING AWAY LIKE A DEMON RIGHT NOW.
SEN-TAROU,
NO, I WON'T BE COMING FOR A WHILE...
TODAY ...
JUST LIKE THAT.
BON, YOU IDIOT!!
IF YOU MAKE UP EARLY, ITS EASIER.
COME ON, LETS GO!

TO SENTAROU,

KAORU-SAN IS AN IMPORTANT FRIEND.

...

THAT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN...

SENTAROU IS DEFINITELY WAITING FOR YOU.

SENTAROU ALWAYS PRACTISED ALONE.

BEFORE KAORU-SAN TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL,

WHEN JUN-NII AND DAD COULDN'T PLAY WITH HIM,

HE SHUT HIMSELF AWAY IN THE BASEMENT.

AND JUST KEPT PLAYING THE DRUMS.

AS TIME WENT BY,

FOR AS LONG AS I COULD HEAR THE SOUND OF DRUMS,

BUT,

IT FELT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO INTRUDE.

AFTER KAORU-SAN CAME, THAT FEELING WAS GONE.

I'M SURE HE WAS GLAD TO HAVE FOUND A FRIEND TO PLAY JAZZ WITH.

ALWAYS THINKING OF HIM, ALL THE TIME.

YOU ARE ...

RICCHAN,

I'M SURE YOU GUYS WILL BECOME FRIENDS AGAIN!

HEY, KAORU-SAN,

MAKING HIM MORE IMPORTANT, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE THE VICTIM.

UNDER-STAND...? EH...?

FUFU!

...EH?

I THINK I UNDER-STAND WHAT HAPPENED.

SHALL I GUESS WHAT YOU GUYS WERE FIGHTING OVER TODAY?

N...

NO, RICCHAN...

I UNDER-STAND.

SHE'S REALLY PRETTY.

...

THIS MORN ING,

YOU GOT ANGRY AT SENTAROU FOR SHOWING OFF, RIGHT?

KAORU-SAN...

YOU LIKE YURIKA-SAN, DON'T YOU?

I WAS BORN THAT WAY TOO...

I WISH ...

RICCHAN, YOU ARE ...

VERY... CUTE TOO!!

AND CHARM-ING...!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?

THAT'S NOT IT!

I WASN'T TRYING TO CHEER YOU UP!

OH, KAORU-SAN,

...HĒH

THANKS FOR CHEERING ME UP.

I LIKE RICCHAN, BUT...

SO I CAN'T SEEM TO TELL YOU.

IS BEING STOKED BY RICCHAN'S STRENGTH,

THIS GUILT,

RECORD SHOP●MUKAE JAZZ

WE'RE HERE, KAORU-SAN.

WOW, THE SHOP'S REALLY BUSY TODAY!

it's full of sailors!

RICCHAN ...

W, WAIT!

RICCHAN, I...

LET'S GO, KAORU-SAN!

I SPACED OUT, AND WE'RE HERE ALREADY

CRAP,

OKAY, HANG ON, DAD.

RICCHAN, YOU'RE BACK JUST IN TIME! COME HELP ME OUT.

WEL-COME BACK.

HEHE, IT'S A NECES-SARY EVIL.

open up!

WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE, RITSUKO?

RIC-CHAN!!

RATTLE

OPEN UP!

WELL, THEN! GOOD LUCK, KAORU-SAN.

EH? WAIT ...!

IT'S NOT LIKE

.....

I CAME TO SEE YOU.

.....

すとん

ガヤー

ーカチャ

*SILENCE

N,

NOTH-
ING.

WHAT IS IT?

.....

THE GIRL HE LIKES.

HE HAS THE SAME FEELINGS FOR...

HIM, TOO.

IT'S A SONG JUN-NII OFTEN PLAYED DURING THE SUMMER VACATION.

"BUT NOT FOR ME"

IT'S A SONG ABOUT THINGS NOT GOING WELL IN LOVE, AND COWARDICE.

SO I UNCONSCIOUSLY STARTED PLAYING THIS SONG.

I WANTED TO AVOID THE SILENCE,

WHAT IRONY.

ヂャ

ヂャ

ヂャ

I WASN'T PLAYING ANYTHING.

HUH? WERE YOU HEARING THINGS?

...WHAT IS IT?

DON'T COME IN ON YOUR OWN!

ぽぽぽ

.....

HMM?

ポ・ポン ポポン

トコトコトン

HE'S PLAYING TOGETHER AGAIN...

ポポ

AH.

WHAT IS THIS?

ISN'T THIS A FESTIVAL BEAT?

HEH!

WASN'T THAT COOL?

FESTIVAL JAZZ!

HEH!

IDIOT...!

STOP IT! I CAN'T PLAY WHILE LAUGHING!

THIS FITS UNEXPECT-EDLY WELL, DOESNT IT?

NO WAY!

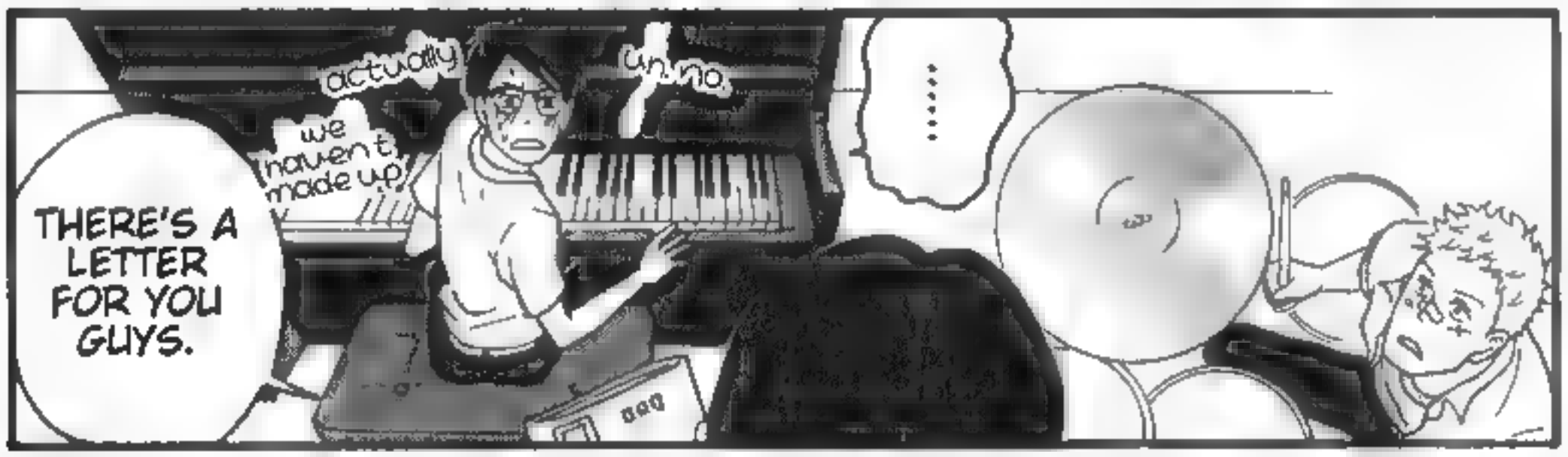
I CAN'T HELP BUT ENJOY MYSELF.

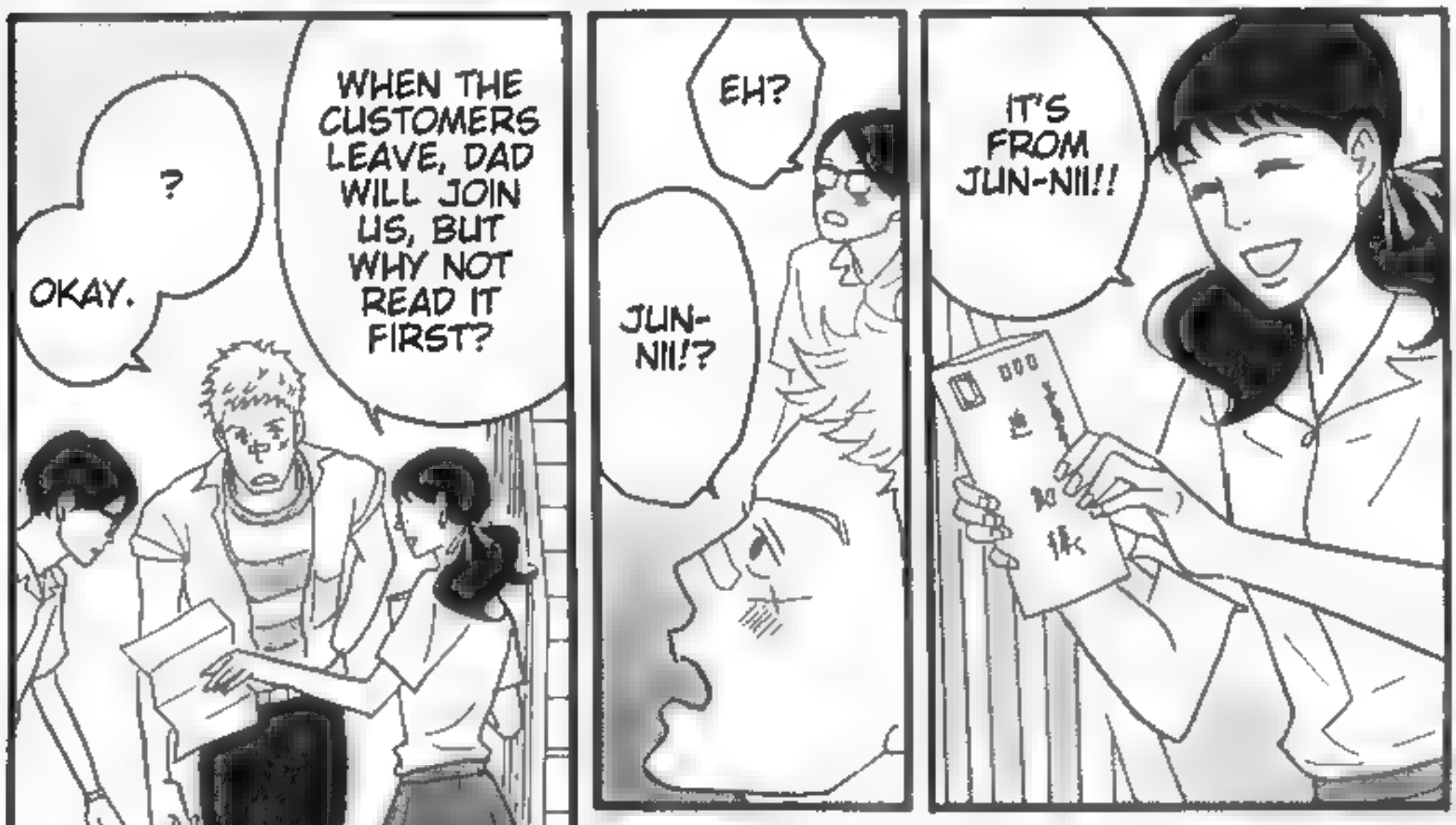
WHEN I'M WITH HIM,

AH, I CAN'T HELP IT.

坂道のアポロン②

YOU'VE MADE UP ALREADY?
WOW, THAT WAS FAST!!
ガチャ!
ÄH
ha..
ahaha!
SORRY FOR INTRUDING WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.


actually
un.no.
we haven't made up!
THERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU GUYS.
.....


WHEN THE CUSTOMERS LEAVE, DAD WILL JOIN US, BUT WHY NOT READ IT FIRST?
?
OKAY.
EH?
JUN-NII!?
IT'S FROM JUN-NII!!

RIC-CHAN...

I'LL GO HELP OUT UPSTAIRS.

LI, LIM ...

OKAY.

.....

OH!

HASN'T REALIZED HOW RICCHAN FEELS AT ALL.

THIS GUY ...

.....

"I'VE MENTIONED THIS PREVIOUSLY, BUT ARE YOU KEEN ON PLAYING JAZZ FOR AN AUDIENCE"

"WE HAVE A PERFORMANCE REQUEST"

...EH?

BON!

LOOK, READ THIS PART!!

AND THEY ASKED FOR US TO PLAY.

THE BAR JUNICHI WORKED AT IS HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY.

IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS, WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST.

IT'S A BAR FOR THE AMERICAN TROOPS FROM THE NEARBY BASE

and Jazz originated from America.

WELL, THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY...?

YOU'RE NOT GOING THERE TO DRINK, SO IT'LL BE OKAY.

THE OWNER IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE.

CAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EVEN ENTER?

A BAR FOR FOREIGN-ERS...

There was one in Yokosuka too.

HM..? THATS...

BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN THEM FOR A LONG TIME.

DO YOU GO THERE OFTEN?

EH!?

THE OLD MAN AT THE SHOP IS AN INTERESTING GUY!

SHALL WE GIVE IT A TRY?

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

OF COURSE!

...YES!

WHAT SHALL WE PLAY?

OKAY, IF YOU HAVE A SONG YOU WANT TO PLAY, LET ME KNOW.

I'LL WRITE A REPLY TO JUNICHI.

...AH,

KAORU-SAN!

ALSO, THE BOTH OF YOU MADE UP SO FAST, I WAS SURPRISED.

hmm?

Where dia that copy of Tunisia go..?

I GUESS ITS ALWAYS SIMPLE WITH BOYS.

CAN I GO WATCH?

I HEARD YOU ARE GOING TO PERFORM AT JUN-NII'S SHOP!

AH... YES, OF COURSE.

I ENVY THAT ...

THAT'S NICE...

BON!

HEY, BON!

...

DON'T PICK A BORING OR DEPRESSING SONG!

...I'LL DECIDE NOW.

HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A SONG?

WHAT IS IT?

how annoying!

PORTRAIT IN BILL EVANS

...PLEASE DON'T.

IF YOU DO THAT, I'LL TURN IT INTO FESTIVAL JAZZ.

"THERE'S A SONG CALLED ~SOMEDAY MY PRINCE WILL COME.~"

"KAORU-KUN, SINCE WE'RE PLAYING AS A PIANO TRIO, YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO BILL EVANS"

"IT'S A SWEET AND ROMANTIC SONG."

"IF YOU PLAY THIS FOR A GIRL, SHE'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU IN ONE SHOT."

"Someday my Prince will Come"

I prefer Miles Davis's version

HMM?
BILL EVANS?
I JUST...
?
HORACE SILVER
"I"
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING!
N, NOPE ...
FOR RICCHAN.
WANT TO TRY PLAYING SOMETHING,
AND THEN...

IF RICCHAN LIKES IT,

IF SHE LOOKS HAPPY,

HOW I FEEL.

I'LL TELL HER...

THAT'S *GOOD* ENOUGH.

I JUST WANT TO LET HER KNOW THAT THERE IS *SOMEONE* WHO LIKES HER, BY HER SIDE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER LOVE WILL BLOSSOM.

SCENE 9

AND RUN DOWN THE SLOPE.

WHEN CLASS ENDS, WE DASH OFF IMMEDIATELY.

THE TIME WE HAVE AFTER SCHOOL IS LIMITED.

ÄH!

I FORGOT MY COAT...

IT'S STILL IN THE CLASSROOM...

TOWARDS THE BASEMENT STUDIO, WHERE OUR INSTRUMENTS ARE WAITING.

WHAT AM I DOING?

THE WEATHER IS ALREADY GETTING COLDER... HOW COULD I FORGET IT?

.....

damn

BUT NOW, I'M USED TO IT.

IN THE PAST, I WOULD LOSE MY BREATH JUST FROM CLIMBING THIS SLOPE.

KAORU-SAN, YOU CAME BACK!

AH!

.....

YEAH, WELL,

WERE YOU THAT EXCITED ABOUT PRACTICE?

RUNNING OUT WITHOUT YOUR COAT ...

... OH

I WAS GOING TO TAKE THIS TO THE SHOP FOR YOU.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO!

IDIOT, SHUT UP!

THEY'RE LIKE A MARRIED COUPLE.

OH, LOOK!

GETTING ALONG WELL AREN'T YOU BOTH ?

MY OLD HABIT FROM WHEN THE MAID HELPED ME DRESS AT HOME!

bacchama

your sleeve

THIS IS...!

HE HAS CONNECTIONS... EVEN THAT KAWABUCHI IS BEING CONTROLLED BY HIM FROM THE SHADOWS!

DON'T YOU KNOW THE RUMORS ABOUT NISHIMI?

WHAT IS IT?

married?

it's common knowledge in our class now.

I thought you knew

why didn't you say so?

...WELL,

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

WE BETTER NOT GET INVOLVED WITH HIM.

THAT WAS APPARENTLY DONE ON NISHIMI'S ORDERS...

REMEMBER HOW YAMAOKA LOST HIS TEETH?

ahahaha!

let's leave it at that, shall we?

SINCE KAORU-SAN HAS SOMEONE HE LIKES.

I HOPE THEY CLEAR UP THAT MISUNDER-STANDING SOON.

REALLY!

LIKE A MARRIED COUPLE, THEY SAID.

I see. So that's what we look like.

KAORU-SAN, DID YOU SEE SEN-TAROU?

ぎくっ!

RICCHAN ...

YOU'RE THE ONE MISUNDER-STANDING...

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.

WAIT HERE, RICCHAN.

I BET HE'S JUST SLEEPING ON THE ROOFTOP OR SOMETHING

SHALL I GO LOOK FOR HIM?

HIS THINGS ARE STILL HERE, SO HE HASN'T LEFT.

THOUGH SENTAROU USUALLY SKIPS HOMEROOM JUST TO LEAVE EARLY.

ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR ...

WHAT A PAIN...

I'M COMING IN,

SENTAROU-KUN.

DID SHE JUST...

SAY SENTAROU?

DON'T ...

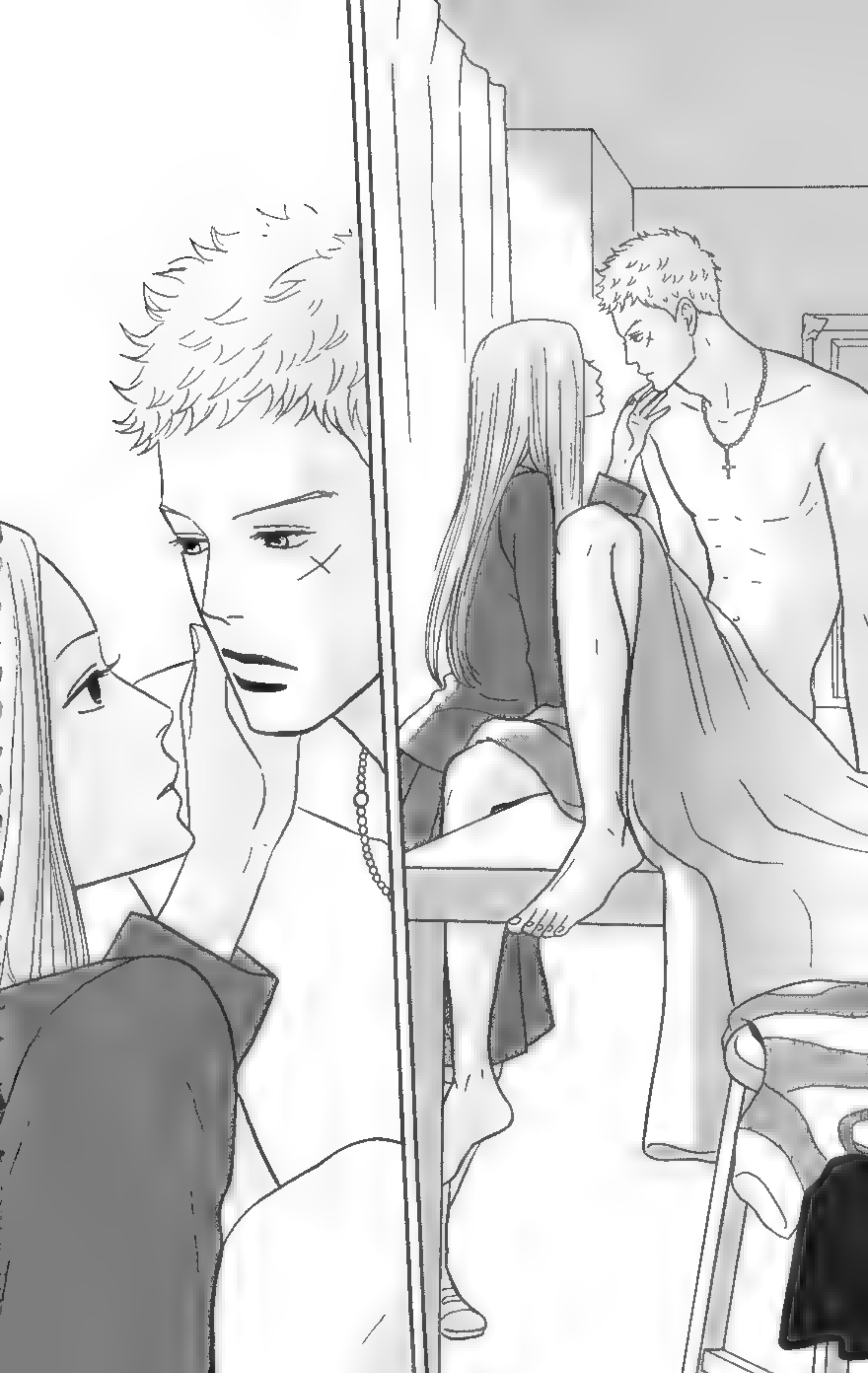
FUFU ...

...EH?

THAT WAS ...

YURIKA-SAN ...?

TRY NOT TO BE TOO STIFF.



坂道のアポロン②

WHAT IS WITH HIM!

WHAT,

HE HADN'T BEEN IN LOVE BEFORE!

AND TO THINK HE SAID...

WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN SCHOOL?

トン-!

トン-!

トン-!

THE ROOFTOP ...

AH, YEAH! HE WAS SLEEPING ON THE ROOFTOP

HE TOLD US TO GO ON FIRST BECAUSE HE WAS STILL SLEEPY.

EH?

AH ...

KAORU-SAN, WAS SENTAROU THERE?

はぁ

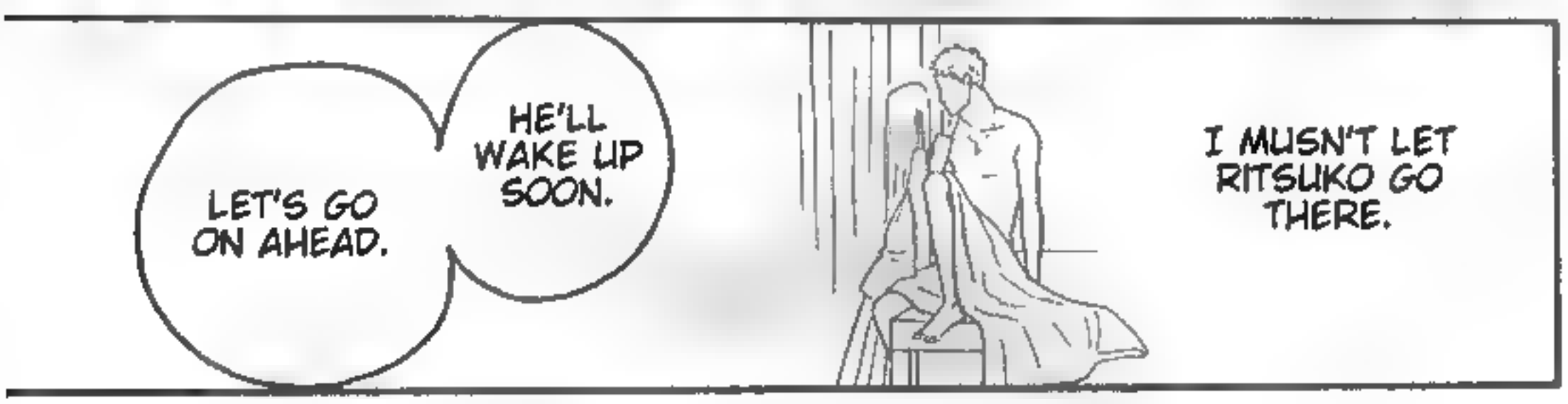
はぁ

坂道のアポロン②

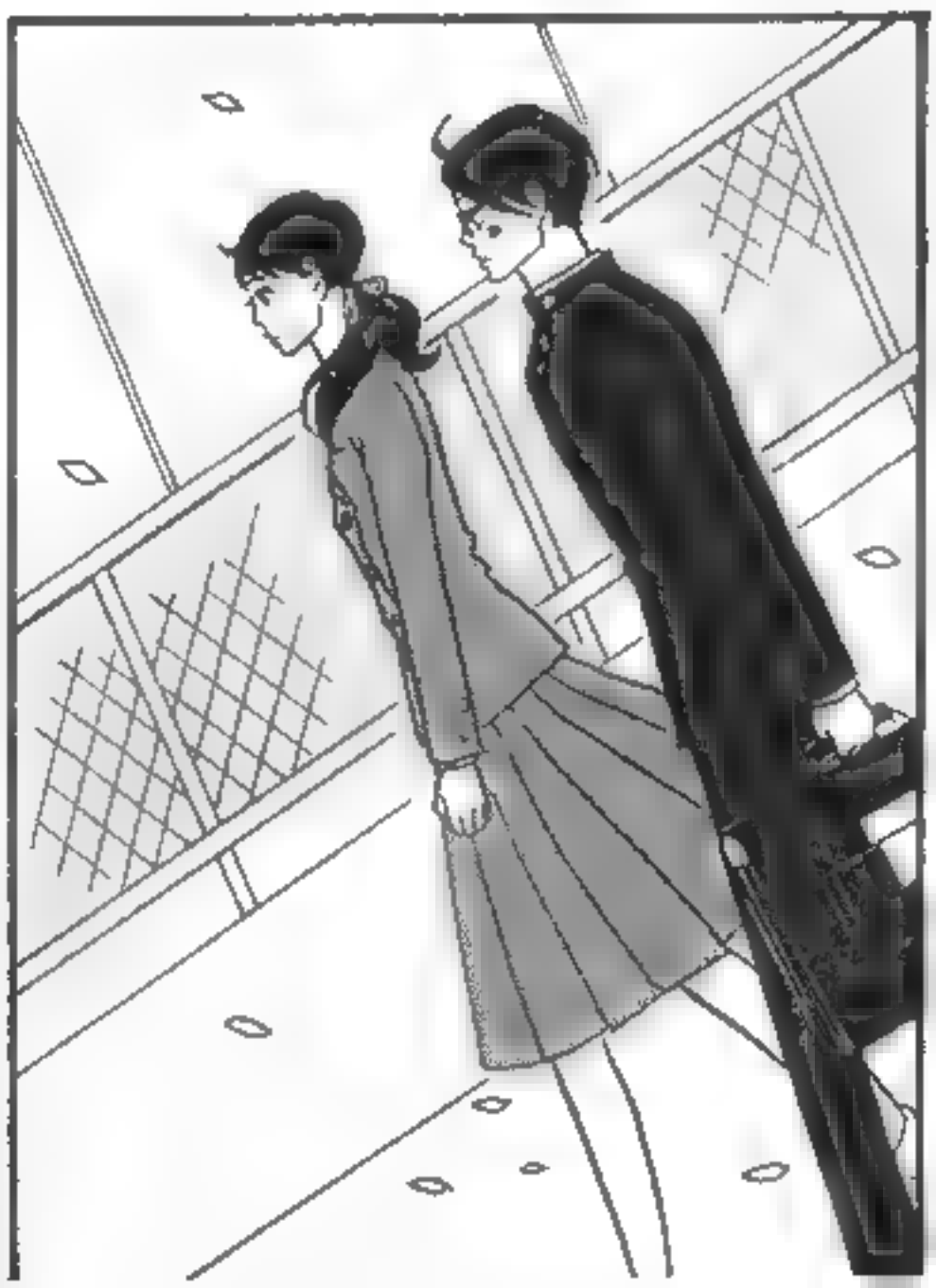
RIGHT BELOW THE ROOFTOP IS THE ART ROOM.
...Y,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...

NO, NO IT WASN'T THE ROOFTOP! IT WAS THE LANDING JUST BEFORE IT ...
IT ISN'T COLD THERE!
I'LL GO GET HIM.

IT'S COLD TODAY ...
HE MIGHT CATCH A COLD ...


LET'S GO ON AHEAD.
HE'LL WAKE UP SOON.
I MUSN'T LET RITSUKO GO THERE.

RICCHAN ISN'T SAYING MUCH.
SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT HIM.



...RICCHAN

HE IS...

STOP THINKING...

AND AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

UM... RICCHAN,

ABOUT HIM.

WHEN WE GET TO THE SHOP,

PLEASE COME DOWN TO THE BASEMENT.

THERE IS A SONG I WANT TO LET RICCHAN HEAR.

IT'S A LITTLE EARLIER THAN I HAD PLANNED FOR.

I WANTED TO PRACTISE A LITTLE MORE.

...YEAH.

...SONG?

KAORU-SAN, YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY SOME-THING?

LET HER HEAR IT NOW.

BUT I WANT TO ...

COULD YOU

SIT OVER THERE?

COME ON,
BILL EVANS.

RICCHAN
...

IT'S DEDICATED TO YOU.

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO THIS.

AND PRACTISED IT IN SECRET.

I'VE KEPT IT FROM EVERYONE.

I WANT TO LET RICCHAN ...

EVEN FOR JUST A LITTLE,

WITH THIS ROMANTIC TUNE...

FEEL HAPPINESS.

"Someday My Prince Will Come."
.....

THAT'S THE TITLE OF THE SONG.

.....

SO THAT MAKES KAORU-SAN THE PRINCE?

I MEANT TO SAY ...

...UM.

WERE YOU PRACTISING FOR YURIKA-SAN?

THIS IS YOUR RE-HEARSAL, ISNT IT?

AM I RIGHT?

...!!

...YOU'RE WRONG.
THIS IS IT.
YOU'RE THE PERSON I LIKE.

.....

EH.

EH? ME...?

IT'S FINE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER NOW...

THE CUTEST GIRL IN THE WORLD.

TO ME, RICCHAN IS,

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT.

I'LL GO HOME FOR TODAY.

...

FINALLY PUT IT IN WORDS.

I'VE ...

I SAID IT.

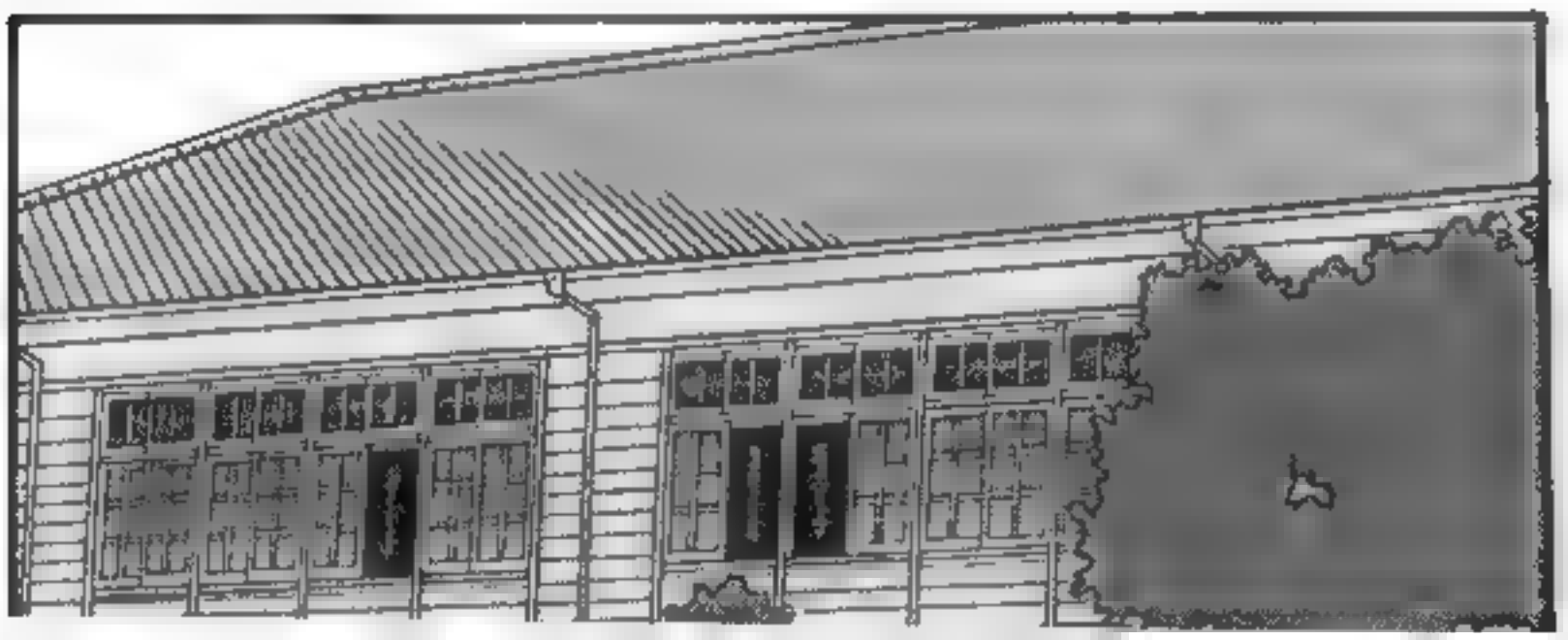
SHE WAS SURPRISED.

RICCHAN,

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.

I'M DRAWING A BLANK.

WHAT SHOULD I DO FROM NOW ON?



Girls, please move to the changing rooms.

AH.

IT'S SO TROUBLESOME.

SIGH ...

PHYS ED FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!

COME TO THINK OF IT, YESTERDAY HE WAS...!

Bon, are you not going to change?

it's cold!

HM?

URK!

...WHAT IS IT?

STOP COMPLAINING.

ow ow ow

you're too stiff

I puked a muscle

SHALL I PAIR UP WITH YOU?

DON'T YOU HAVE A PARTNER FOR THE STRETCHING EXERCISES?

HEY.

shall I skip this class?

how boring

.....

you're stiff all over!

W, WHAT... HOW DID YOU...?

don't lean on me!

aw!

I WAS PASSING BY AND HAPPENED TO SEE YOU.

HUH?

IN THE ART ROOM.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING YESTER-DAY?

IN THAT KIND OF RELATION-SHIP?

YURIKA-SAN...

SO, ARE YOU AND

DON'T BE SILLY.

I WAS JUST BEING A MODEL FOR HER PAINTING.

AFTER SEEING THAT, I WON'T LET YOU SAY THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.

STOP PRETEND-ING.

WHAT?

I told you not to lean!

SO... THAT'S ALL?

NOTHING HAP-PENED!?

YEAH-

...

MODEL?

FOR HER OIL PAINTING.

I WAS ASKED TO BE A MODEL ...

gaze at that branch like it's something precious!!

not like that! Tilt your head a little more!

?

...

AND IT WAS OVER BEFORE I KNEW IT.

SHE MADE ME HOLD A BRANCH AND STRIKE SOME STRANGE POSES.

WHY AM I SO RELIEVED?

EH?

wow. you're flexible!

yeah

amazing

SIT DOWN!

IT'S BON'S TURN.

...

I SEE ...

WAS IT BE-CAUSE HE DIDN'T OVERTAKE ME AFTER ALL,

OR IS IT...

i give up.

boring

THIS MUST BE IT.

AH.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

SIGH ...

ISN'T THAT YOUR CHANCE?

TO MODEL FROM NOW ON.

...ALSO

I HAVE TO GO EVERY MONDAY.

HMM.

YOU ...!

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR!!

IF SHE DOES SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO YOU?

!!

*SNICKER

*BLUSH

he's actually laughing...

hahaha!

you bastard!

RIGHT ...

I'm getting really scared

WHAT ON EARTH IS NISHIMI...?

those underground connections were real...

FIXED ON THE PERSON BEHIND ME.

RICCHAN'S EYES WERE...

CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.

SHE'S ALWAYS SO

BUT,

I DON'T MIND.

EVEN SO,

SUPPORT RICCHAN.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO...

THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO LIKE SOMEONE THIS WAY.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME ...

ACTUALLY, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE ...

URK ...

... YET.

HEY, BON!

HAVE YOU LEARNT THE SONGS WE'RE GOING TO PLAY FOR THE PARTY?

WE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP ...

HOW ABOUT CHECKING OUT THE PLACE WE'RE PLAYING AT!!

THAT'S NOT GOOD.

HM? WELL, I'VE GOT THE SOLO DOWN...

heh

that's where you play as you like isn't it?

this is bad.

IT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN PRACTICING "SOMEDAY MY PRINCE" ALL THIS TIME.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

WAS THERE REALLY ...

NOTHING GOING ON WITH YURIKA?

BY THE WAY,

.....

DID YOU NOT TRY TO SNEAK A KISS OR SOMETHING?

you're persistent!

argh

ENOUGH! THERE WAS NOTHING!

!!

WELCOME

SKY

WELL, WE'RE HERE. THIS IS THE BACK ENTRANCE TO THE BAR ...

....SHUT UP

AH, YOU IMAGINED IT NOW, DIDN'T YOU?

IDIOT ...

I COULDN'T ...

NY

.....!!

d. deep!!

HEY ...

OI, THAT!

ITS, ITS SO...!

FOR A MOMENT,

IT'S WRONG.

THAT'S A FAKE.

THERE WAS A COLDNESS IN HIS EYES.

YEAH.

.....

AND I FELT A CHILL IN MY HEART.

ARE YOU LEAVING JUST BECAUSE YOU SAW THAT KISS?

ISN'T THE SHOP ENTRANCE HERE?

WH... WHATS WRONG?

... HEY?

IT'S FAKE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN,

OPEN

SHUT UP!!

I HEARD SENTAROU YELL.

IT WAS [THE] FIRST TIME ...

HE WAS AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN.

LIVELY AND NAIVE,

TO THE SHOP TODAY...

...
I'M NOT GOING

I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM.

I'M SORRY FOR YELLING AT YOU.

UNTIL WHEN I SAW A LITTLE OF THE DARKNESS HE WAS HIDING.

I GOT A LITTLE AGITATED FROM SEEING THAT.

LET'S GO BACK AND PLAY A SESSION BEFORE GOING HOME.

TOGETHER, BON.

MAYBE I

REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM YET.

I HAD THAT FEELING.

AS WE WALKED TOGETHER,

SCENE 10

TO THE DAY OF THE PARTY.

ONE MORE MONTH,

WHICH IS WHY ME AND SENTAROU ARGUE FRE-QUENTLY.

RECENTLY, OUR PRACTICE SESSIONS AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

this is a difficult part!

if you don't play anything there's no point!

huh!?

BE QUIET FOR A MOMENT, I'M GOING TO PUT IN A GOOD AD-LIB HERE.

I KNOW ...

YOU AREN'T MOVING YOUR HANDS.

BON!

YOU'RE EARLY! ARE YOU ON WINTER BREAK ALREADY?

JUN-NII !!

WOW!

LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE HAVING FUN, SEN-BOU!

NOPE, I SKIPPED OUT ON CLASSES.

I WANTED TO PLAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CAN I JOIN IN TOO?

is it fine missing classes?

BUT THERE'S A CERTAIN SOMEONE LAGGING BEHIND!

YEAH!

...WHO MAY YOU BE TALKING ABOUT?

SO, HOW ARE YOU GUYS?

IS EVERYTHING GOING WELL?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE PLAYED TOGETHER!

GREAT!

what are you playing now?

...WELL,

LET'S TRY PLAYING TOGETHER FOR NOW.

I CAN'T DO IT.

.....

damn...

BUT MY FINGERS WON'T MOVE.

THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO DO FOR THE AD-LIB,

...I SEE

SOMETIMES HE JUST FREEZES IN THE MIDDLE.

WHAT'S WRONG, KAORU-KUN?

?

WHAT ARE YOU STARING INTO SPACE FOR?

ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY?

BO-N!

URK!

YOU'RE TRYING FOR PERFECTION, ARENT YOU?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF KAORU-KUN'S CLASSICAL BACKGROUND.

yep!

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN JAZZ IS NOT TECHNIQUE, BUT LIVELINESS, KAORU-KUN.

IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR AN AD-LIB.

JUST REPEATING A CHORD LIKE THIS,

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING COMPLICATED.

YOU'VE SAID IT, JUN-NII!

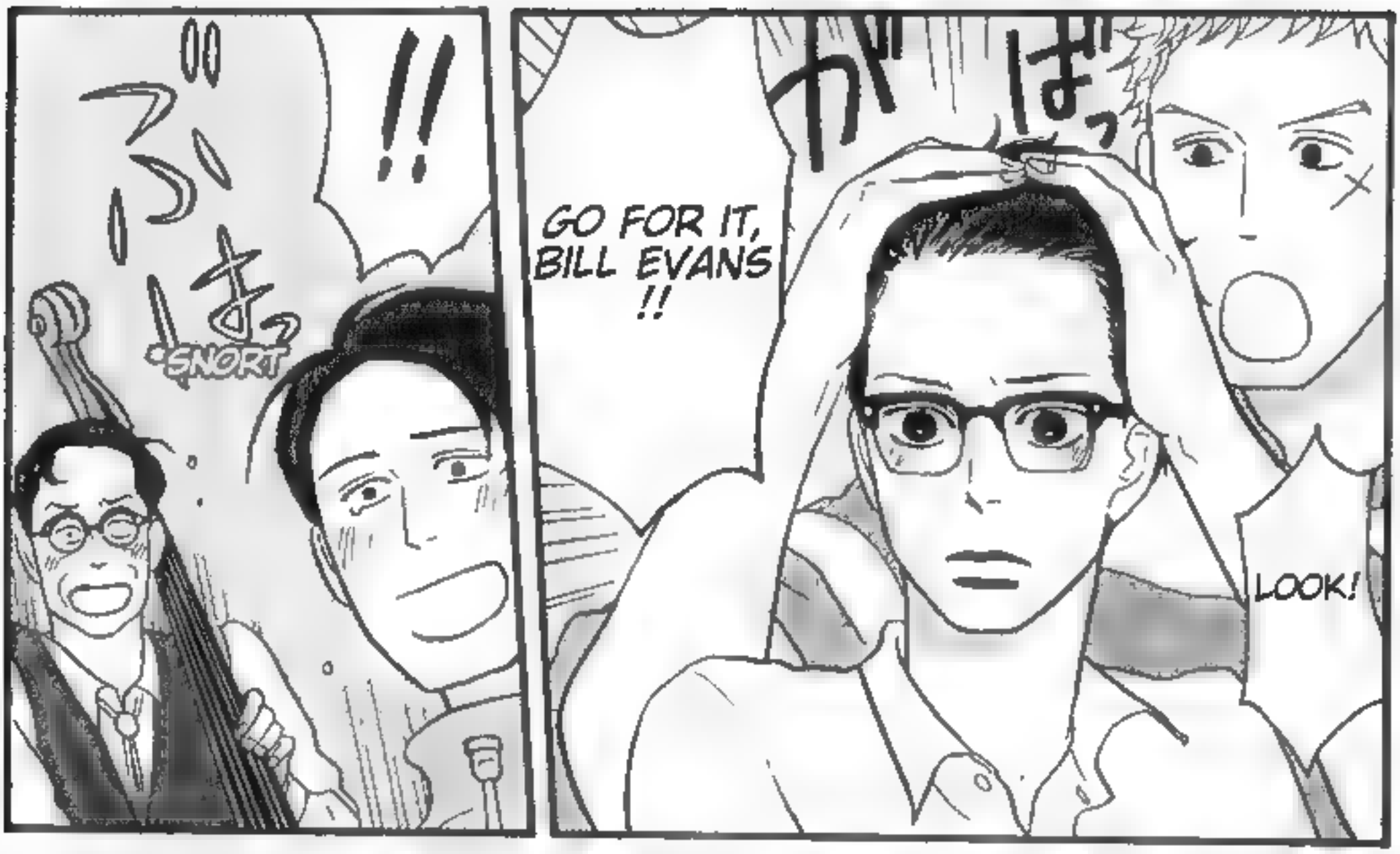
ガシッ

!?

.....

REMEMBER HOW YOU GAVE IT YOUR ALL WHEN WE FIRST PLAYED TOGETHER DURING SUMMER VACATION?

坂道のアポロン②


SNORT
GO FOR IT, BILL EVANS !!
LOOK!

TRY PUTTING THIS CIGARETTE IN YOUR MOUTH, KAORU-KUN.
i knew it!
...
OH, HE RESEMBLES HIM!
THAT ANXIOUS LOOK IS EXACTLY THE SAME!!
down to the glasses!

I GUESS WE CAN EXPECT YOU TO PLAY BRILLANTLY!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY!
HAHAHA, THEY LOOK ALIKE!
TO THINK I MET BILL EVANS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
i can't see from here.
HAHA!
...
bon, look over here!
its actually happy!
please shake my hand!

FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS

OUR PRACTICES GOT TOUGHER.

OUR DAILY SESSIONS BECAME A TEST OF CONCEN-TRATION

TIME FLEW.

AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT,

THE DAY HAD COME.

...WE'RE GOING TO PERFORM HERE.

IT'S SMALLER THAN I EXPECTED.

HEY.

.....

OH!

ABOUT THAT TIME...

OH, IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME HERE, ISN'T IT?

WE DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE PLACE WHEN WE CAME THE LAST TIME.

HEY, OCCHAN, IT'S BEEN LONG!

YOU'VE GROWN SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!

SEN-BOU!!

MY BIRTHDAY IS ON CHRISTMAS.

HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW, SEN-BOU?

I'LL BE 16 SOON.

I COULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!

sonny rollins!?

but his face is japanese

AND TO THINK YOU WERE THIS SMALL,

WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE!

15

born in april 16

W, WHAT!?

HE'S YOUNGER THAN ME...!

AH, I BOR-ROWED THIS FROM JUN-NII.

IT'S LIKE OUR STAGE COSTUME.

YOU'VE BECOME AN ADULT SO FAST.

NOW YOU EVEN HAVE A NECKTIE!

YOU FORGOT THESE!

SENTAROU!

HE HAD TO BUY SOME THINGS.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE IS JUN-NII?

HE'LL BE BACK SOON...

坂道のアポロン②

YOU CLOWN!
HAHA!
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DRUM WITH?
OH!
AH.
YOUR STICKS ...
I TOTALLY FORGOT!
THANKS, RITSUKO. YOU SAVED ME!

THESE STICKS ...

ARE ALREADY WORN OUT.

.....

IT'S A GOOD THING IT WAS JUST THE STICKS.

YEAH, I DON'T HAVE TO USE THE BRUSH TODAY

WELL, AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL USABLE.

YEAH, I'VE BEEN USING THEM FOR YEARS.

...KAORU-SAN

...NOW THEN,

SHALL WE WARM UP FIRST?

坂道のアポロン②

AH, RICCHAN...

DID HE REMEMBER TO
INVITE YURIKA FOR TONIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE OUR SHOP?

WELCOME

ARE YOU LOST?

THIS IS A PLACE WHERE FOREIGN SOLDIERS GATHER TO DRINK.

ITS NOT A PLACE FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU, OJOUSAMA.

...OR MAYBE

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.

SO YOU'RE A CUS-TOMER.

WELCOME, OJOUSAMA.

ÖH

I WAS INVITED BY A FRIEND TO WATCH THEIR PER-FORMANCE.

m. me too

long time no see, ricchan

DON'T CALL ME "OJOUSAMA".

IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING MOCKED.

GOOD FOR HIM.

such a honest reaction

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THIS IS THE MUKAE TSUTOMU QUARTET.

SO...

IS EVERY-ONE READY?

SINCE WHEN DID I BECOME THE LEADER?

and

SORRY I'M LATE.

shouldn't that be you?

RIGHT NOW.

since we couldn't decide

OH,

AND HERE COMES THE LEADER, MR. MUKAE!

tsutomu

LET'S DO THIS.

JUST DO AS WE DID DURING PRACTICE.

AND WHEN IT GETS LIVELY, JUST PUT IN ALL YOU'VE GOT.

HM ...?

WHATS WRONG WITH HIM...?

THAT'S STRANGE ...

IDIOT...

THEY'RE STARING...

URK...

I'M STARTING TO FEEL NERVOUS.

IS IT BECAUSE YURIKA IS WATCHING ...?

HE'S BEING STIFF...

AND HE ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION.

WAKE UP!

WHERE'S YOUR USUAL ENERGY?

WHATS WRONG?

SHUT UP!

he woke up!

Stop it already!

Hey! Stop Stop!!

WHAT DID HE SAY, BON?

looks like a troublesome customer

HE SAID HE DOESN'T LIKE BLACK JAZZ,

SO HE WANTS US TO PLAY SOME WHITE JAZZ.

I HATE THE JAZZ OF THE BLACKS!

THE BEAT IS SO IRRITATING!!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY, DO SOME WHITE JAZZ!

WHAT'S WITH THAT DIS-CRIMINA-TION?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU OLD MAN?

YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD ANSWER!

SENBOU!

IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO START A FIGHT HERE.

HUH?

CALM DOWN.

HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT. DON'T TAKE A DRUNK MAN SERIOUSLY.

.....

I CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS.

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

KAORU-KUN.

AH...

HAH!

I CAN'T DO THIS.

SEN-BOU ...

THAT SONG I TAUGHT YOU DURING SUMMER VACATION... "BUT NOT FOR ME"

I THINK SO...

CAN YOU PLAY THAT,

YES?

YEAH.

DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST LIKE PLAYING A GAME.

...EH?

WITH JUST THE TWO OF US?

IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, THE PARTY'S GONE TO WASTE.

FOR NOW, WE'VE GOT TO LIGHTEN THE ATMOSPHERE.

坂道のアポロン②

WITH JUST TWO PEOPLE ...?

WHAT CAN WE DO,

A GAME ...?

HE...HE'S SINGING...!!

But not for me ♪

They're writing songs of love ♪

ガッ

...HM

HE'S PLAYING CHET BAKER?

WHAT A TALENTED GUY ...

A lucky Star's above

But not for me

JASRAC #0812425-802
BUT NOT FOR ME
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JUN-NIISAN IS AMAZING.

THANK YOU.

WHEN JUN-NII COMES BACK.

haha

I CAN NOW UNDERSTAND WHY SENTAROU GETS SO EXCITED,

encore!

HE'S GOT THE CHARISMA.

REALLY ?

I'M NOT THAT GOOD...

JUST LIKE ART BLAKEY.

YOUR DRUM-MING WAS LOVELY!

STOP SULKING, SENTAROU-KUN.

MADE ONE OF MY DREAMS COME TRUE.

GETTING TO HEAR BOTH OF YOU PLAY A SESSION,

HEY, KAORU-SAN.

.....

THANK YOU.

YOU WERE WONDERFUL.

I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO START SINGING.

....YEAH!

JUN-NII IS REALLY FULL OF SURPRISES!

....FUFU

and he had a good voice!

TODAY'S HERO IS JUN-NIICHAN!

HM?

ARGH, DAMN!

I RE-GRETTED THAT!

あはははは AHAHAHA!

AW, JUN-NIICHAN, PAY ATTENTION!

IT WAS A GOOD EXPERI-ENCE.

DEALING WITH SURPRISES IS PART OF THE FUN IN JAZZ, ISN'T IT?

.....

I HAD FUN, THOUGH.

THANKS TO THAT GUY...

I ONLY MANAGED TO PLAY HALF OF WHAT I PRACTISED!

ARGH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

so annoying!

YOU'RE GETTING AHEAD OF YOUR-SELF...!

WHA ...!

THEY'RE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.

Come on, come on!

Stop it!

SO YOU'RE YURIKA.

OJOU... I MEAN,

YURIKA.

...AH

CALL YOU?

WHAT SHALL I...

〈坂道のアポロン〉②＊おわり＊

SAKAMICHI NO APOLLON (2) - THE END

afterword

IT'S MY FIRST VOLUME 2.
I'M GLAD IT WAS PUBLISHED WITH NO PROBLEMS.

A SERIALIZED COMIC IS LIKE LIVE PRODUCE, IT CHANGES FAR TOO UNEXPECTEDLY.
SORT OF LIKE JAZZ, ISNT IT...

WELL, THAT'S A STRAINED INTERPRETATION.
SORRY...

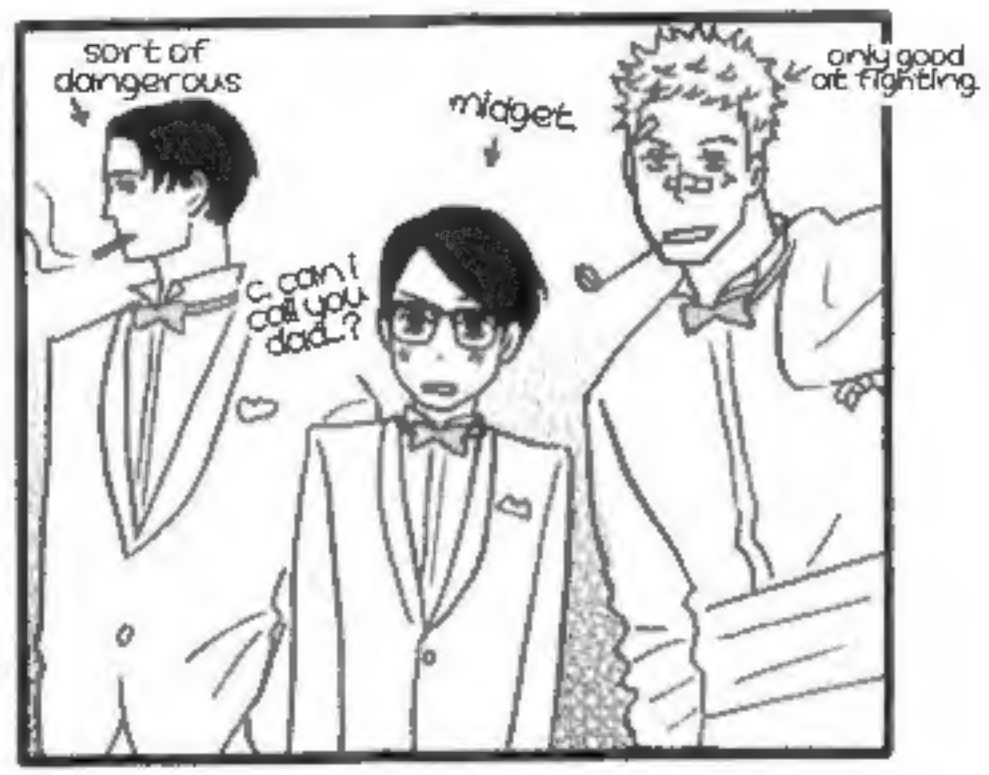
I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

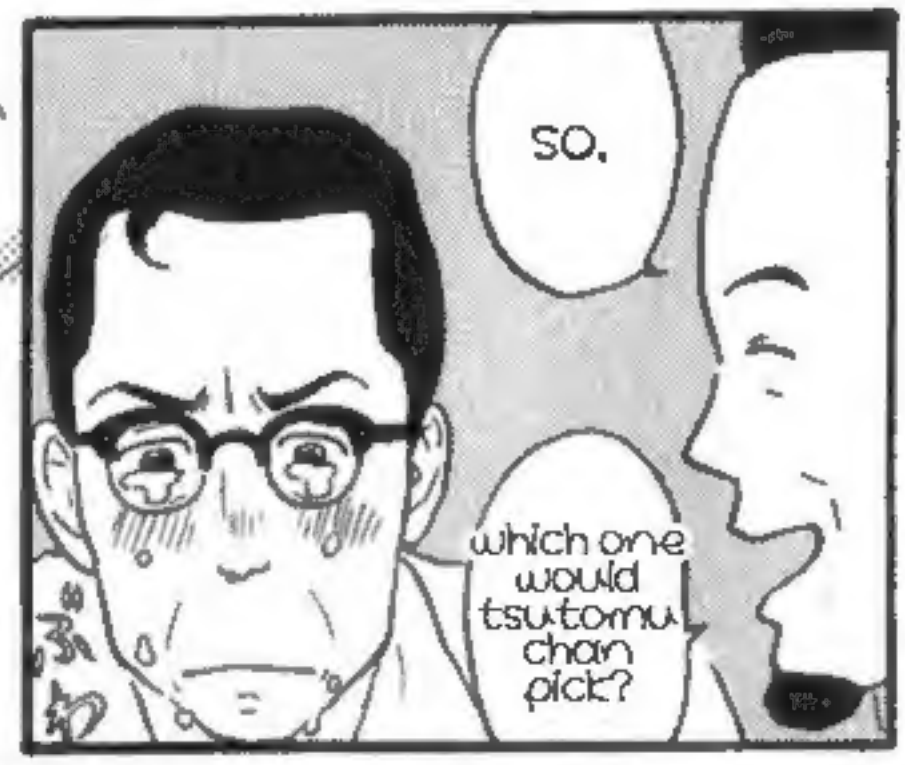
Special Thanks to

前田さん、さいとうさん、西本さん、
桑名さん、米田さん、南森さん、
加島さん、松本さん、青木さん、
星野さん、ヨコタケ、ヨネクラ
岩本さん、ヒガさん
名久井さん、指宿さん、鳥坂さん
編プロ、編集部の皆々様
読んで下さったすべての皆さんへ

小玉ユキ

after-party





give her happi- ness? what a joke
mar- riage?! move aside, ritsuko!
i won't allow it! i won't let that happen!!
tsu_ tsutomu chan?!
who are you calling dad?
sorry. I didn't expect you to imagine all that...

its a delicate age.